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Diana T Fritz 06/05/2007 10:46:51 AM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable  
Text:

SECRET

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

January 27, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 442 - PRIORITY)  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PINR  
Captions: None  
Subject: SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR AWAY: ABU MUSA DEAL  
ELUDES HAMDAN  
Ref: None

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S E C R E T ABU DHABI 00442

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: POL  
INFO: ECON RSO AMB DCM P/M

DISSEMINATION: POL  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA  
DRAFTED: POL:STWILLIAMS  
CLEARED: A/DCM:TEWILLIAMS

VZCZCADI228  
PP RUEHC RUCNIRA RUEHDE RUEHTU RUMICEA RUEKJCS  
RHEHNSC RHEFDIA RUEAIIA  
DE RUEHAD #0442 0271327  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
P 271327Z JAN 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8100  
INFO RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE  
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 2744  
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 0480  
RUMICEA/USCINCCENT INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP/DSCA-MEAN/ISA-NESA//  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 000442

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP AND NEA/NGA

TUNIS FOR FSI/MAYBURY

CENTCOM FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR LITT

NSC FOR ABRAMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1/27/13  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [IR](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR AWAY:  
ABU MUSA DEAL ELUDES HAMDAN

REF: A) 02 Abu Dhabi 6693 (11 December 2002)

B) 02 Abu Dhabi 2773 (02 June 2002)

¶1. (U) Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba, Reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).

¶2. (S) In the course of a 1/22 meeting with visiting NEA A/S Burns, MFA Minstate Hamdan Bin Zayid Al-Nahyan briefed on the difficulties he is encountering sealing a deal with Iran on Abu Musa, one of three Gulf islands occupied by Iran but claimed by both the UAE and Iran. In contrast to his earlier optimism, conveyed to the Ambassador as recently as one month ago (ref a), Hamdan now believes that the "difficult internal situation" in Iran -- namely the strengthening of the hardliners at the expense of the reformers -- has made progress towards a deal more elusive. Hamdan explained that the UAE had worked with Khatemi and the reformers to move the deal along but now that the hardliners have the upper hand, it has apparently been put on hold. He does not expect the situation to change; in fact, with military action looming in Iraq, it is the UAE leadership's collective belief that the position of the Iranian hardliners will only strengthen.

¶3. (S) Comment: Hamdan is clearly disappointed at this setback, having come so close to sealing the deal. He expended a lot of time (two trips to Tehran and countless hours in Abu Dhabi with Iranian envoy Muhammad Abtahi, Khatemi's chef de cabinet who was subsequently promoted to the post of Vice President) and prestige. We expect the Emiratis will sit tight for now, though they clearly would have liked to remove this irritant in their bilateral relationship with Iran before any major regional geostrategic upheaval. End Comment.

¶4. (U) A/S Burns did not clear this message.

WAHBA